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TECHNICAL

NOTES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

FOREST SERVICE

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Small Deer and Hare Exclosures Can Be Effective

Tests made on the Argonne Experimental Forest in northeastern Wisconsin show that small areas can be protected from deer browsing with low and relatively inexpensive fences. Seven exclosures 4 feet high and large enough to include a milacre sample plot showed no sign of entry by deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) during 2 years following construction. These test exclosures were placed along regularly used deer trails in a cutover hardwood stand where the overall deer population averages approximately 25 per square mile. Tracks were observed around some of the exclosures following each snowfall during the first winter, but there was no indication that deer had been inside any of the fences.

The initial test included fences built in three different ways. Two types were built entirely in the field; the third was prefabricated and then assembled in the field. All were equally effective in excluding deer, but prefabrication appeared to be the most efficient method. A major portion of the job could be done in a shop where working conditions were favorable and tools readily available.

The prefabricated exclosure consists of four wire sides, each 4 feet high by 10 feet long, supported on a wooden framework. One side is made with stock wire, and the opposite side is made with poultry netting. The other two opposing sides are covered half with stock wire and half with poultry netting. The four sides are then taken into the field and assembled. The sharpened uprights are pushed into the ground and the corners fastened with wire. A piece of poultry netting is fastened across the middle to make one half of the exclosure hareproof leaving the other half open to hares. See back of sheet for details of construction.

Materials for one exclosure include:

- 8 pieces, 1" x 4" x 10'
- 12 pieces, 2" x 2" x 5'
- 2 pieces, 1" x 2" x 4'
- 22 feet of stock wire
- 30 feet of poultry netting
- 15 feet of #12 smooth steel wire
- nails and staples

Thirty-two exclosures of the type described have been built and set up on study plots on the Argonne Experimental Forest. Total cost has averaged approximately \$10 per exclosure. This will vary depending on field location and grade of materials used.

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JOHN H. COOLEY
Research Forester

DETAILS OF EXCLUSION CONSTRUCTION

